

The African Conquests

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in civil affairs than in military; like Christodulus before him he settled law-appeals, and became head of the Curia, but his simple title was exalted into the more imposing one of "emir of emirs and archon of archons." A deed of Roger's which speaks of the *amiratus amimtorum Georgius qui praerat toti regno meo* attests the viceregal character of the Admiral, and the King's high esteem of him. The low-born adventurer rose in the kingdom which he aided to found almost to the eminence of a prime vizir, but the vizir of a great and all-directing master.

The memory of the Admiral is preserved in Palermo by the church which he founded, and which is worthy of his fame. Santa Maria dell' Ammiraglio is now better known by the name La Martorana, which it gained at a later date. It was built for George of Antioch between 1139 and 1143 on a site not far from the later cathedral.¹

Later additions have left untouched the noble campanile and the original church, though some of the mosaics have suffered. The plan of the building is Byzantine, a square with a cupola, and apses at the eastern end; the walls are covered with the beautiful mosaics of which the Greeks

were the masters; the work of Saracen
artists is
shown in the inscription in Arabic
and Cufic

¹ The Act of Endowment is preserved in the
Archivio of the
Capella Palatina. George as *amiratus amiratorum*
and *protono-*
bilissimus endows the church with land and ten
Saracen serfs
attached to the same. F. Galley Knight,
Normans in Sicily.
p. 260-262.
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